

IN THE CLAIMS:

29. (currently amended) A method of providing an interactive user experience associated with a music playback device, comprised of:

providing a computing resource for processing music playback;

providing a display associated with the computing resource, wherein a portion of the display displays a plurality of graphical lanes, wherein one or more of the graphical lanes corresponds to one or more music instruments, wherein the display displays animated pulses rhythmically synchronized with the music playback; and

providing one or more user input resources suitable for user interactivity;

wherein functions performed by at least one of the input resources are context specific to one or more of the graphical lanes.

30. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein at least one user input resource affects a pitch changing function.

31. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein at least one user input resource affects a tempo changing function.

32. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the music play back device comprises a portable handheld device including a digital signal processing resource.

33. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the display displays a digital light show through a TV/video interface.

34. (cancelled)

35. (new) An interactive music playback device comprising:

a computing resource for processing music playback;

a display comprised of a plurality of graphical lanes, wherein one or more of the graphical lanes corresponds to one or more music components, wherein a portion of the display is rhythmically synchronized with the music playback; and

a user input device suitable for user interactivity;

wherein functions performed by the user input device are context specific to one or more of the graphical lanes.

36. (new) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the user input device affects a pitch changing function.

37. (new) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the user input device affects a tempo changing function.

38. (new) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the interactive music play back device comprises a portable handheld device including a digital signal processing resource.

39. (new) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the display displays a digital light show through a TV/video interface.

40. (new) A method of providing an interactive user experience associated with a music playback device, comprised of:

providing a computing resource for processing music playback;

providing a display associated with the computing resource, wherein a portion of the display displays a plurality of graphical areas, wherein one or more of the graphical areas corresponds to one or more music components, wherein a portion of the display is rhythmically synchronized with the music playback; and

providing one or more user input resources suitable for user interactivity;

wherein functions performed by at least one of the input resources are context specific to one or more of the graphical areas.

41. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein at least one user input resource affects a pitch changing function.

42. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein at least one user input resource affects a tempo changing function.

43. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein the music play back device comprises a portable handheld device including a digital signal processing resource.

44. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein the display displays a digital light show through a TV/video interface.

45. (new) The method of claim 40, further comprising the steps of:

providing a microprocessor executing a microprocessor operating program, wherein the microprocessor comprises part of the computing resource; and

providing a download interface for receiving updates to the microprocessor operating program.

46. (new) The method of claim 40, further comprising providing a music database stored in digital form, wherein the computing resource access the music database in accordance with the processing of music playback.

47. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein the processing of music playback is performed based in part in accordance with a user selectable musical style.

48. (new) The method of claim 40, further comprising providing a USB interface configured to transfer audio files.

49. (new) The method of claim 48, wherein one ore more of the audio files is encoded in a compressed audio format.